

SPRING SUMMER

THE KALIFORNSKI

May-August 2017
Vol. #9

President's Welcome - Judy Hager

Dear SACO family,

Can't believe it is already May. This has been another busy and exciting year for us so far.

We held our second SAEP February fundraiser dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall, in Watsonville, again. It was another sold out event. Another exciting event is being planned for October. More info to be forthcoming. We are planning to send our first students to Croatia in the summer of 2018.

In March the Scholarship committee submitted applications to various schools and we awarded 7 scholarships. The recipients will be introduced at the July picnic.

Our April lamb BBQ was well attended and we received many compliments due to the hard working Events Committee and volunteers under the leadership of Maryann Bulich Schnitter. The committee does have one important request; they would appreciate any members willing to stay after the events to assist with cleanup. If you are interested in recruiting a cleanup crew for any event please contact Maryann at #1-408-828-5206.

Plans are being made for the July 9th picnic at Corralitos Padres Hall. It will be another great family event.

Our membership is growing and that is very exciting! If anyone has any suggestions for any events please contact me.

I hope everyone is having a good year and I look forward to seeing you in July.

Your President,
Judy

SACO

To inform and educate Slavic Americans, as well as others, of the Slavic Culture and History



SACO's UPCOMING EVENTS

*Summer Picnic
July 9, 2017
at the
Corralitos Padres Hall*

*SAEP
Fall Fundraising
BBQ
October 8, 2017
at the
Pajaro Valley
Historical Association*

*Christmas Dinner
December 9, 2017
at the
Watsonville Women's
Clubhouse*

Mark your calendars!

SACO participating at the Annual Pajaro Valley Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture's BUSINESS EXPO held at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds on April 20, 2017



Members
Luci Basor and
Niki Simmons coordinated the display booth and were on hand to share and educate attendees on the organizations history and promotion of Slavic cultures

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Memorials



In Memory of SACO's Founding Member & President

Patricia L. Gospodnetich Solano

who passed away on April 3, 2017

Her family would like to invite you to

A "Celebration of Life" on

Friday, June 30, 2017

11:00 am to 3:00 pm

Corralitos Padres Hall

35 Browns Valley Road, Corralitos, CA

Please RSVP to GeriAnne Solano-Simmons

Phone: (831) 750-9679 or Email at: TomandGerianne@aol.com

Patricia L. Gospodnetich Solano

Alice & Steve Bankhead

John & Sharon Alaga

Dave & Maryann Bulich Schnitter

Linda Espejo

Mato Paljetak

Rodney Misumi

Manny Solano

Elizabeth Boles

Ann Scurich

Marlo & Ronald Clements

Norman & Barbara Davis

Beloved members who have passed:

Audrey Mekis

Antone Basich

Patrick Carey

Anton Car

Bill Magerly

Nina Matulich

Janet Meidl

Zarko & Nevenka Radich

Louis & Geneve Ivanovich

"Rest in Peace"

"Počivao u Miru"



"You will be missed"

"Nedostajati ćeš nam"

SLAVIC EVENTS

Saturday, May 27, 2017

Southern California Croatian National Soccer team vs. Mexico

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum 4:30 p.m.

First Time Competition in North America

Saturday, June 3, 2017

St. Peter Serbian Food Festival

St. Peter the Apostle Serbian Orthodox Church

3502 N. First Street, Fresno, CA 93726

3:00 - 11 p.m.

More Info: <https://www.serbifestfresno.com/>

June 10-11, 2017

Sacramento Croatian Extravaganza

3730 Auburn Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95821

1-916-489-0339

www.croatiancenter.org/croatian-extravaganza

Sunday, August 13, 2017

All Slavonic Summer Picnic

Delano Slavonic Social Club

12 noon - 4 p.m.

For More Info Call Donna Bronzan 1-559-625-9537



ATTENTION ALL

MEMBERS:

ELECTIONS

COMING SOON!

JANUARY 2018

**nominations are needed and for
those that would like to be on
the nominating committee,**

please contact:

SACO President

Judy Hager

for more information

judyhager@earthlink.net

or phone # (831) 438-2188



TREASURER'S REPORT— as of May 12, 2017

Prepared by: Susan Radin Gallagher

Lamb Dinner

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Ticket Sales | \$7,010 |
| Raffle Tickets | \$972 |
| Drink Tickets | \$1,230 |
| Extra Food | \$293 |
| Clean Dep. Returned | \$410 |
| Income | \$9,915.00 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | <u>-\$4,746.40</u> |
| Profit | \$5,168.60 |
| <u>10% to Scholarships</u> | <u>\$525.00</u> |
| Total | \$4,643.60 |

Membership Update:

188 Members, includes 20 new members

Scholarship Fund Donations

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Gayle Ivanovich | John & Sharon Alaga |
| Michael & Julie Hinson | Dominic & Martha Muzzi |
| Martin & Anita Lasich | Jane Dabo Cruz |
| Mark & Carole Pista | Mae Stolic |
| Donald & Cathryn Freitas | Craig Dobler Family |
| Michael & Michelle Mifsud | David & Maryann Bulich Schnitter |
| Michelle Leonardich Bowling | PW & Karen Bachan |
| Louis & Geneve Ivanovich | Jim Ivelich |
| Radovan & Stacy Radich | Kathryn Mekis Miller |
| Paul & Julie Drobac | Tony & Betty Bobeda |
| Robert & Melinda Scardina | Eric & Teresa Del Pierro |
| Paul & Elizabeth Bachan | Ann Moresco |
| Thomas & Leanne Copriviza | Tom & Geri Anne Simmons |
| Mato Paljetak | Nita Gizdich |
| Catherine Dabo | |
| Zarko & Nevenka Radich | |
| Diane Robey | |

SACO Checking Account Balance

\$12,518.70 as of May 12, 2017

SACO Savings Account Balance

\$4,131.00 as of May 12, 2017

The 2016 taxes have been filed.

Thank you:

to the following families for donating desserts and/or prizes for the Lamb Dinner: J. Alaga, Biggs, Bloom, S. Bulich, Clough, Dobler, Edelmaier, Gallagher, Garbutt, Gizdich, Heick, Kusanovich, Lathrop, Main, McCabe, Mifsud, Moresco, Muzzi, Rains, Schimpler, Schnitter, Sele, Simmons, Solano, Spain, Vodonovich and all the rest that slipped in unnoticed.

We appreciate your donations!



Consul General for Croatia,

Mr. Sinisa Grgic

with SACO & SAEP Members,

Eric Del Piero (left)

and

Marc Del Piero (right)

on

May 6, 2017 in Monterey, CA.

Spring Lamb BBQ Dinner held on April 29, 2017 at the Notre Dame School Gymnasium

Many thanks to Judy Hager, Maryann Bulich Schnitter and the entire Lamb Dinner Committee Members for all of their time and hard work in coordinating an event that we all very much enjoyed—it was delicious!



SACO SAEP COMMITTEE UPDATE By Eric Del Piero



Your Student Ambassador and Exchange Program committee has been hard at work over the last six months. Beginning with our very successful, and sold out, 2nd Annual Gala Dinner at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Watsonville. A memorable 4 course dinner with award winning wines was, by any measure, a true success. The support and generosity of our sponsors and our members was tremendous. I especially want to thank the Pavlovich Family for being our Platinum Sponsor and our Gold Sponsors, The Dugger Family, Gold Star Buick GMC and Barbara and Russ Jeffries. Our Silver Sponsors included Rocky and Judy Franich, Sambrailo Packaging and Scurich Insurance Services and our Bronze Sponsors were Michael and Mary Copriviza. The funds raised by SAEP will allow students to travel on an exchange trip to Croatia in the summer of 2018.

The plans for our Fall Fundraising BBQ are underway and we hope to have this event at a new venue on the grounds of the Pajaro Valley Historical Association on Sunday, October 8, 2017. Some of our committee members met with the new Consul General for Croatia, Sinisa Grgic, on May 6 in Monterey. He has tentatively agreed to attend the Fall BBQ with his family. Mr. Grgic will be back home in Croatia in early July and regretfully will miss SACO's July BBQ. Mr. Grgic shared that the Croatian Consulate will soon be moving from downtown Los Angeles to a historic building in San Pedro. He is looking forward to completing the move and settling into a much larger consulate facility.



For those high school students and their families that wish to apply for our Exchange Program scheduled for the summer of 2018, please watch for announcements late this summer. Our application package and timelines are currently being finalized. Based on the number and qualifications of the applicants, between 5 - 10 students will be chosen. The selection of our first group of student ambassadors will result in the culmination of SACO's vision to assure that the heritage of those immigrants from the countries comprising the former Yugoslavia to California is preserved.

Part 3 of 3

Summer Travels with Luci

This is a continuing series of travel articles written by Luci Basor, a Watsonville native, local educator and world traveler. Luci and her family are founding members of SACO and she enjoys writing and sharing stories of her travels to her families homeland and beyond. This time, SACO Board Member Niki Simmons joined her for a wonderful 2016 summer adventure. She is of Croatian heritage whose families name is Gospodnetich from Dol, Brac, Croatia.



Hello SACO members!

Our last summer adventure ended in Prague, and we had a flight the next day to Dubrovnik!

As soon as we landed at the airport, I was informed that one of my cousins got engaged, so that meant going to the house to celebrate! For those of you who don't know, Croatia is non-stop, especially in the summertime! Without hesitation, Niki and I followed my group of cousins, fireworks in hand, to go and celebrate at their house! The room was filled with music, food, and people telling you to eat, eat, eat! (What Slavic person DOESN'T do that?!)

The next few days consisted of many adventures throughout Konavle, Dubrovnik, Ston, and even Split!

Above Dubrovnik is the mountain Srđ. During the last war, this was a point of attack down on the walled city, but now it is a museum, restaurant, and cable car destination. From just outside the walled city, you can take the cable car straight up and have an incredible view of the "Pearl of the Adriatic." Niki and I, however, decided to hike our way up the mountain with one of my friends. The path that takes you to the top is alongside the "magistrala" or highway, and zigzags up. It's considered a "holy path" because several times throughout the year the path is used for religious purposes. We made our way up and reached the top in less than an hour! If you have not had the opportunity to go up to the top of Mount Srđ by žičara (cable car), car, or hike, it is something you must do! I find myself up there a lot, just to breathe in the beauty of the area. You get to see the city from the outside, the islands surrounding the area, the northern part of Lapad, and Gruž, and even down south towards Cavtat and Konavle.



Konavle isn't known for their Mexican food, so Niki and I decided to host our own little dinner consisting of bunuelos, tacos, rice, beans, salsa, and even homemade sangria! Surprisingly, finding the ingredients that we needed was not that hard! Niki was the main chef that night, and created an incredible meal for us and my group of friends! As we sat on my balcony, scarfing down such a normal dish for us, but odd for my friends,

I realized this is what life is about. It's about sharing different parts of who we are, from our backgrounds to our food, with people who were once strangers, and have now become my good friends.

For the short amount of time that Niki was with me in Croatia, we decided to take an unexpected trip up to Split! In 2007, Niki joined my family and I for the summer, and we had the opportunity to visit where her family is from on Brač, as well as Split. This last summer we were only there for two days, so we tried to do as much as we could. Now, while we were traveling around Europe, we had climbed to the top of many towers, so naturally, we had to do the same in Split. Within Diocletian's Palace, on the shores of the Adriatic, is the Cathedral of Sveti Dujce, which has a bell tower you can climb up. The stairs inside of that tower are incredibly narrow and very high, but the view once you get to the top, is AMAZING! After we went to the tower, we walked around the old city, and made a stop at Grgur Ninski (Gregory of Nin). This is a large statue of Grgur, where they say you have to rub his toe for good luck, so naturally, that's what we did!



Being a port city, Split welcomes a lot of people coming to and from the islands surrounding it, like Brač and Hvar. As we sat on the promenade enjoying coffee at one of the cafes, we were surrounded by the constant movement of people getting on ferries, locals trying to get tourists to take part in some sea activity, and of course the many ships, boats, and seagulls filling the bay! Although it may seem incredibly hectic, somehow, it's still very calming and peaceful to sit and enjoy a drink and food.

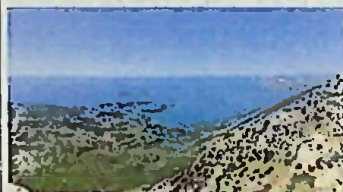


Later that night, Croatia was playing against Portugal in the Euro Cup first round! While we were in Prague, we watched Croatia play, as well as in Gruda, so we had to keep the game watching going! We found an outdoor venue that was playing the game live on huge monitors, and lots of surrounding food vendors. The atmosphere was great, unfortunately we lost the game and were out of the Euro Cup. That was our last night in Split, the next day we would be headed by bus back down to Konavle!

One of the most beautiful beaches I've ever been to, and most people would agree with me, is Pasjača. This is a hidden beach along the Konavle village of Popovići. Now, to find this beach is very tricky (I don't know how tourists do it), but to hike down to the beach, and back up, is also very difficult! The sky blue water, is gorgeous, but the steep cliffs right above the beach is very terrifying. When you look up, you are looking straight up the cliff, some people have even witnessed stones falling from the top while they were sunbathing. Nevertheless, it's a beautiful place to visit, which of course meant I had to take Niki there! My favorite time to go is early in the morning, first because there aren't many people, and second because the sun gets very strong later on in the day, and there's not much shade. Also, a tip if you do go, take a lot of water, and snacks to munch on while down there enjoying the sun and beautiful blue water!



Many of you who have been to Konavle, have probably visited Sivi Sokol viewpoint, from the top of the mountain in Konavle. The view from up here is absolutely stunning, as you can see the whole Konavle Valley, Cavtat, and all the way to Dubrovnik. The drive zig zags up the mountain, towards the several villages in Konavoska Brda (Mountains of Dubrovnik).



For the last part of Niki's visit with me in Croatia, we decided to really be adventurous...with food! Both of us love to try new and different kinds of food, as was noted in the past few travel stories, but this time, we decided to tackle something more "normal," but neither of us have had....the OYSTER. When in Croatia, and you want to try oysters, the best place to go? Ston. So, one morning, Niki and I decide to do just that. We drove up in my white Toyota Tacoma, along the coast of Dubrovnik, ready (or not) to experience oyster and seafood mania. I personally love seafood, and have been to Ston before, but even for me the oyster was a bit scary. We found a very popular and famous restaurant in the town, Bakus, and ordered away. We started with a cheese and meat platter, and then ordered "crni rizot" (black squid ink risotto) and one oyster each. Our server tried to get us to order more, thankfully we didn't.



Before our main meal came out, our oysters were delivered. Being completely unknown to this kind of food, we asked our waiter to explain to us how to eat it. HE said to pick it out with the little forks, squirt some lemon on it, pop it in our mouths and chew. Um...I'm pretty sure that was wrong. Because I don't know how many people we told this story to, and they all have said you're not suppose to chew! Oh well, too late. Anyway, we successfully ate our oysters, but we're pretty sure that was the first and last time for both of us (especially Niki ;)). After we stuffed ourselves with the main meals, we had to have a dessert. Being in Ston and all, we decided to have the Stonska torta, made with makarule, walnuts, and cinnamon. It was delicious!

Our adventurous summer of 2016 was definitely a summer to remember, and we are going to keep it up! Stay tuned for summer of 2017 travel adventures, as Niki and I take a trip to England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and Ireland! Can't wait to share our travels with you all :) Živjeli!!!

Language

Language Corner

Language

by: John Basor

Teacher, Aptos/Santa Cruz/Watsonville Adult Education

Unlike English, Croatian has no silent letters. Almost every letter is pronounced as it is written, i.e. one prapheme = one phoneme. Each vowel can be either short or long.

On Arrival

At The Hotel

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Immigration | Pasoška kontrola |
| Customs | Carinska kontrola |
| Do you have anything to declare? | Imate li nešto za cariniti? |
| No, I am a tourist. | Ne, ja sam turista. |
| Where is the bus stop? | Gdje staje autobus? |
| Where is the bus station? | Gdje je autobusna stanica? |
| Where is the train station? | Gdje je željeznička stanica? |
| Where can I get a taxi? | Gdje je taxi stanica? |

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| hotel | hotel |
| I have a room reserved in the name of... | Imam rezervaciju za... |
| Do you have any vacancies? | Imate li slobodnih soba? |
| I would like a... | Trebao/(la) bih |
| ...single room | ...jednokrevetnu sobu |
| ...double room | ...dvokrevetnu sobu |
| I'll take the room for one night. | Uzet ću sobu na jednu noć. |
| How much is the room per night? | Koliko košta soba za jednu noć? |

2017 SACO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Christopher Copriviza

St. Francis High School
Chico State University
Parents: Peter and Jackie Copriviza
Grandparents: John and Kathryn (Zar) Copriviza
Tony and Mary (Cumo) Lipanovich
Konavle, Croatia and Lumbarda on the Island of Korcula, Croatia

Zachary Estrada

St. Francis High School
Cabrillo Community College
Parents: Greg and Janet (Zlendich) Estrada
Grandparents: Bob and Helen (Derpich) Zlendich
Frank and Loretta Estrada
Gornje Selo on the Island of Solta, Croatia and Pucisca on the Island of Brac

Jonathan Gospodnetich

Aptos High School
Cabrillo Community College
Parents: William Timothy Gospodnetich and Kathleen Case
Grandparent: Jerry Gospodnetich
Great Grandparents: Joseph and Frances (Bakich) Gospodnetich
Island of Brac, Croatia

Jade Hinson

Aptos High School
University of California, Davis
Parents: Mike and Julie Hinson
Grandmother: Rita Sain
Island of Korcula, Croatia

Ivo Lasich

St. Francis High School
Sacramento State University
Parents: Martin and Anita Lasich
Grandparents: Ivo and Ljubica Lasic and Ivo and Kate (Banovac) Kaznacic
Dunave, Konavle, Croatia Nijemci near Vinkovci, Slavonia, Croatia
Topolo, Croatia and Mravinjac, Dubrovacko, Primorje, Croatia

Ireland McAbee

Notre Dame High School, Salinas
University of Alabama
Parents: Richard Jr. and Jacqueline McAbee
Grandparents: Richard Sr. and Helen (Barbora) McAbee
Great Grandparents: Radu and Kate (Knego) Barbora
Donji Brgat, Croatia

Monica Mifsud

Presentation High School, San Jose
Gonzaga University, Spokane, Washington
Parents: Mike and Michelle Mifsud
Grandparents: Bill and Pauline (Dabo) Mifsud
Great Grandparents: Mitchell and Catherine (Milias) Dabo Sr.
Stravca, Croatia and Konavle, Croatia



CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



SLAVIC AMERICAN CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

P.O. BOX 226

WATSONVILLE, CA 95077

A Non-Profit, Non-Religious &
Non-Political Organization
Established in 1979

All contributions are tax deductible with the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code Federal Tax I.D.#94-2885274

MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS

members and the public are welcome!

The SACO Board of Directors currently meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at the Driscoll Strawberry Assoc. office located on Westridge Drive, Building #300, Watsonville, CA from 7:00-9:00 PM. We hope to see you there!

SACO Board of Directors

2016-2018

President: Judy Hager

judymhager@earthlink.net; (831)438-2188

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bobeda@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Kerry Stringari

gigo@baymoon.com

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suzgalla@aol.com

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nikoleasimmons@gmail.com

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bulich@sbcglobal.net

Kalifornski Editor:

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tomandgerianne@aol.com; (831)724-1967



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at:

Slavic American
Cultural
Organization



YACO

10th Anniversary

1979 - 1989

SACO's (formerly "YACO") HISTORY

1982

The same format was followed in during this year. On January 14, we hosted the Jug Waterpolo Club of Dubrovnik at a Mixer at the ELL's Club. Mayor Bill Johnston presented the club manager with a plaque, and YACO gave Jug a \$600 donation that we had raised amongst our members.

Three days later, YACO sponsored an exhibit at the Vick Museum, entitled "Californians from Yugoslavia," which had been developed by Elise Math. The exhibit was nicely attended, and we received a lot of favorable publicity.

By May, our choral group had selected a name (HARMONIJA) and was a vibrant, active group performing before many organizations in Watsonville.

Babe Hill was elected YACO president on May 2. She quickly arranged to have the entire Veseli Seljaci group appear in concert for a dance at E.A. Hall School on June 6. A kolo party followed at the Kennedy Center which was attended by nearly 800 people. YACO donated \$500 to the major Hospital Drive on June 18.

We held our picnic, another success, on July 3. By now the dinner ticket had risen to \$7.

A real challenge faced YACO. We had committed to our first official sponsorship of a major concert, Jedinstvo, from Split. We met the challenge and had sold out the high school theater one week before the October 26 concert.

On November 7, we held our one and only Yugofest. It couldn't have turned out nicer. In addition to YACO's country store, we had booths that featured Yugo wines and cheeses, records and tapes, books, pastries, and apple pies. Entertainment was provided by HARMONIJA and the Zivio Tamburitza Orchestra.

Naturally, our annual Christmas party finished off the year.

Patricia Gospodnetich Solano was kind enough to share the former YACO's 10th Anniversary Commemorative Book with us. We will publish excerpts from the book in future issues.

Please enjoy!